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International Specialists in the Environment

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 20, 1987
TO: File
FROM: Kevin W. Lyons *KW*
SUBJECT: Illinois/F05-8612-032/FIL0349SI
McCook/Reynolds Metals Co.
ILD005180070

Reynolds Metals which is located in the Village of McCook, Illinois, is engaged in hot and cold rolling of alloyed aluminum into sheet, plate, and coil. The Defense Plant Corporation constructed the present facility that Reynolds Metals leased and eventually purchased. The quarry utilized for waste disposal is on the adjacent property and it is owned by Vulcan Materials Corporation. Presently, the adjacent property which includes the quarry is subleased to Material Service Corporation.

Reynolds Metals produces wastewater sludge which was deposited in the quarry from 1966 to 1978. Additional wastes deposited include construction wastes and an unknown amount of paint wastes. Disposal of all wastes ceased in 1982. Activity at the quarry is prohibited at present.

The site was originally identified by the IEPA in the form of a Preliminary Assessment submitted to the U.S. EPA. Moreover, the initial notification of hazardous waste required by Section 103(c) of the CERCLA was filed during June 1981.

On May 12, 1987, Ecology and Environment interviewed representatives from Reynolds Metals and Material Service Corporation. Information on past and present operations/activities was gathered at this time. The site inspection which followed involved obtaining site photographs and making visual observations. No samples were collected at this time.

Potential groundwater contamination exists due to surface runoff directed down a ramp to the top of the fill surface and then east and west to the bottom of the quarry (Figure 1). Ecology and Environment FIT observed graveled soil piles which only partially encircled the perimeter, representing an incomplete surface water diversion system. Moreover, standing water is common in the east and west ends of the quarry. The quarry does not contain a liner and/or leachate collection system. Presently, the old landfill is covered with grasses and aspen saplings, indicating no signs of stressed vegetation.

The quarry, as part of the Material Services Corporation property, is entirely fenced with locked gates. The area is also under 24-hour surveillance.

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